

fled with his secretary, leaving obligations of 2,000,000 liras (\$400,000) and compelling the branch to close. It was found that the excess of note issues had been distributed among the politicians by the thousands and hundreds of thousands. A Roman deputy had received 4,000,000 liras; a former minister, 2,000,000 liras ; a well-known financier, 1,500,000; a newly elected deputy, 1,000,000 ; a former editor, 150,000 ; and others, various sums from 1,000 to 500,000 liras.¹ Some of these sums were put in the form of loans and advances, but the security was nominal, many of the loans were long over-due, and Signer Tanglono of the bank management declared that he had been compelled to retain these people by the orders of several ministers and of a president of the council.

An official investigation was ordered and the report by Senator Finali showed that three of the banks had exceeded the legal limit of their circulation and that all had tied up their assets to an alarming extent in securities which could not be readily negotiated. The excess of circulation in the case of the Roman Bank was 64,543,230 liras ; the Bank of Sicily, 14,917,203 liras; and the Bank of Naples, 2,041,501 liras. It was found that the National Bank also had issued 53,700,000 liras illegally by order of the administration. The funds not readily negotiable at sight were reported as 628,620,686 liras, or nearly twice the capital and reserves of the banks, the Tuscan Bank of Credit alone being in a sound condition.³ The loans upon mortgages and other securities slow to realize were 199,756,000 liras, and what were called the "^e Direct Employments" of the funds, in Treasury bonds and other paper below par or of doubtful value, were 172,-343,000 liras. The deputies who had paper over-clue were found to number sixteen, and the amount of the paper was 5,922,410 liras, some of it going back to 1878. There were nine more deputies who had obtained renewals to the amount of 641,670 liras. Among the latter was Premier Crispi, with loans of 244,000 liras which had been renewed since 1887.

¹ *Revue des Banques*, March, 1893, XII., 335.

² *Revue des Banques*, May, 1893, XII., 378.